

Cypriot leaders to study confidence-building steps

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali proposed Monday that leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities begin talks here this week by discussing placing part of the uninhabited resort town of Varosha under U.N. administration and reopening Nicosia Airport, also under U.N. control.

Both have ceased to function since Turkish troops landed in the north of the island in 1974, after a coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Dr. Ghali was addressing a closed-door session attended by Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, and by representatives of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France.

The secretary-general was accompanied by his new special representative for Cyprus, former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark.

The meeting, which lasted about 40 minutes, marked the start of a new round of long-running negotiations aimed at reunifying the divided island in a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

The talks have so far concentrated on a so-called "set of ideas" and map which Dr. Ghali presented to both sides last summer. The most recent negotiating round ended inconclusively last November.

According to a copy of the secretary-general's opening remarks, obtained by Reuters, he proposed that, before returning to the "set of ideas" and map, they focus first on measures designed to foster confidence between the two communities.

He suggested they begin by discussing two "especially significant and related" issues:

A. Placing an important area of Varosha — the former Greek Cypriot resort adjoining Famagusta — under U.N. administration "and it's becoming a special area for bi-communal contact and commerce open equally to both sides," and

B. The reopening, also under U.N. administration, of Nicosia Airport "for passenger and cargo traffic from and to both sides."

U.S. tried to topple Qadhafi with Iraqi aid'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States sent Libyan rebels to train in Iraq in the 1980s so they could overthrow Muammar Qadhafi, former government officials said Monday.

The operation was part of a developing intelligence relationship between Iraq and the United States that was to include over time the passing of U.S. satellite information to help Baghdad in its eight-year war with Iran, the official said.

The full extent of the cooperation has not been revealed. But the Bush administration, defending itself against a storm of congressional criticism following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, left the impression it was limited to U.S. help for Iraq against Iran.

The decision to send several hundred Libyans for training in Iraq served several purposes, said former Reagan White House aide Howard Teicher in an interview.

Iraq wanted to get even with Colonel Qadhafi for supporting Iran in the war, he said, and Egypt wanted to encourage U.S. support for Iraq to block Iran from winning and spreading Muslim fundamentalism through the region.

Also, said Mr. Teicher, the United States wanted to topple Col. Qadhafi, accusing him of terrorism and attempting to destabilise his neighbours.

The Libyan exiles attempted a coup against Col. Qadhafi in May 1984, but it was immediately crushed, Mr. Teicher recounted.



KADDOUMI IN BEIRUT: Lebanese Foreign Minister Farez Bouez (right) Tuesday welcomes a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) team headed by Political Department head Farouk Kadoumi (left) upon its arrival in Beirut from Damascus for talks on the peace process (AFP photo)

Security Council extends sanctions imposed on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— The U.N. Security Council Monday decided to keep economic sanctions clamped on Iraq because Baghdad is seen as still not cooperating fully with the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

The sanctions bar all trade with Iraq, but allow it to import food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But with no legal foreign trade, Baghdad has little or no hard currency to buy food and medicine abroad.

At one of its periodic 60-day reviews of the comprehensive sanctions on Iraq, the council members saw no reason to relax the sanctions regime.

The decision came hours after reports circulated that the Iraqi government was massing troops and tanks in northern Iraq, raising fears of a renewed attack on Kurds in the region.

Iraq still refuses to recognise the border demarcated by U.N. surveyors between it and Kuwait, and last week boycotted the final meetings of the U.N. boundary commission that redrew the border.

U.S. officials are also investigating whether the government sent Iraqi agents to Kuwait to assassinate former President George Bush when he visited the emirate in late April to receive thanks for helping liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

The sanctions were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Iraqi troops occupied the emirate for seven months until they were driven out by an U.S.-led allied coalition in the Gulf war.

Iraq has refused to sell \$1.6 billion in oil under strict U.N.

quotations. Quoting Western diplomats in

the region and Kurdish military commanders, the New York Times said Iraqi forces have moved long-range artillery, tanks and trucks to the front in the last few days, concentrating their buildup in areas south of Erbil and Sulaimaniyah. The Times said an Iraqi assault against those Kurdish areas could come as early as the first week in June.

Earlier, prior to a meeting with Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi of Oman, Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a questioner there had been "some preliminary reports with respect to Iraqi troop movements."

"What I would say to Saddam Hussein is that we intend to enforce the United Nations resolutions with great resoluteness. He knows what he has to do," Mr. Christopher said, "and we'll be watching very carefully for any changes in that situation that might call for further action by the United States."

The United Nations meanwhile warned that aid for the Kurds in northern Iraq as well as for needy people suffering the effects of the trade embargo in the rest of the country, will be brought to an end within weeks unless Western countries provide more money and supplies.

In a letter sent to the president of the Security Council early last week, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali warned that unless the United Nations received more money and food from donor countries, he would be forced to suspend the whole relief programme in Iraq as well as in the Kurdish-controlled northern areas by "the end of May 1993 or mid-June 1993."

British politician alleges bid to cover Iraq scandal

LONDON (R) — British intelligence knew Iraq was developing

a supergun years before parts were stopped on their way to Baghdad, a former politician and key informant in the British arms-for-Iraq scandal said Monday.

Sir Hal Miller also alleged at a judicial inquiry into the affair that a top government official tried to cover up the scandal — a charge that was promptly denied.

Mr. Miller said he told intelligence officers in 1988 that Iraq was having "missile tubes" manufactured by a British engineering firm. His intelligence source had replied that his information "confirmed everything they knew," he added.

Yet apparently nothing was done to stop the huge gun being prepared by British engineering firms until barrel sections were intercepted on their way to Iraq in April 1990 — four months

before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Mr. Miller also accused former Attorney General Sir Patrick Mayhew of trying to prevent evidence about the case from coming to court. He said Mr. Mayhew, now Northern Ireland secretary, urged him not to produce documents that could have cleared businessman accused of illegally exporting weapons to Iraq.

"Ministers were prepared to see business as wrongly convicted rather than tell how much they knew about our arms trade with Iraq," Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Mayhew denied Mr. Miller's allegations.

"I have never urged Sir Hal

Miller or anyone else to withhold evidence which would advantage a defendant," he said in a statement. He offered to testify to the inquiry.

Mr. Miller, a long-time leading

Conservative with close links to defence equipment firms, has been a key figure in inquiries into the supergun scandal. But this is the first time he has publicly said he told intelligence about the gun in 1988.

Prime Minister John Major ordered the current inquiry by Lord Justice Scott after a fresh case of arms exports to Iraq exploded last November when three British businessmen from the Iraqi-owned engineering firm Matrix Churchill were acquitted of illegally selling arms-making machine tools to Iraq.

Their trial collapsed when the court accepted the government may have relaxed its own arms export rules and encouraged arms and arms-related sales to Iraq.

The government acknowledged to the 1991-92 parliamentary inquiry that guidelines written in 1948 and published in 1985 were

amended with the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988. They were eased to cover only "lethal" equipment of direct and significant aid to either country, thus exempting machine tools.

But the Miller evidence adds to a belief by many politicians that intelligence services knew more than they let on about the supergun and arms in general.

"If Sir Hal Miller's comments are right then this was certainly not a cockpit, it would be a conspiracy," said opposition Labour Party politician Jim Cousins, who took part in the inquiry. Mr. Cousins later called for Mayhew to resign.

Foreign Office Minister of State Baroness Chalker said in response to a question in parliament Monday that no lethal defence equipment had been supplied to Iran since 1979.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia criticises Western media

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's interior minister, Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz, has sharply attacked Western media for focusing on human rights in the kingdom. Prince Nayef, quoted by the Qatari News Agency Monday, said Western media had malicious aims against the Arab World and against Saudi Arabia in particular, where he said simple events were exaggerated. He said Saudi Arabia practised Islamic law and respected human rights more than European and Western countries which he said were attacking Saudi Arabia's record. "We are an Islamic state fully implementing Islamic Sharia in all matters. This does not suit some of the Western media, who inflate any simple or normal event in Saudi Arabia," he said. "Where are the Palestinians' human rights, and where are the principles of human rights which are violated daily in Bosnia-Herzegovina?" he asked. "Why do the Western agencies not deal with these cases?" The Qatari News Agency report said Prince Nayef was speaking at a news conference Sunday evening in Mina, a few kilometres from the Holy City of Mecca. His comments as reported by the agency made no reference to Saudi Arabia's crackdown on a group of ultra-conservative religious figures who set up the kingdom's first human rights group earlier this month.

Fundamentalists jailed in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — A Tunisia court handed down prison sentence of seven more years Tuesday on 46 Islamic fundamentalists accused of forming a guerrilla group, lawyers said Tuesday. The defendants were arrested in 1991. They denied during their week-long trial belonging to the Commandos of Sacrifice, an offshoot of the banned Islamist movement Al Nahda. Three were sentenced to seven years and 43 to seven years and two months. Sixteen others tried in their absence were given sentences of 11 years, the lawyers said. Nearly 300 Muslim fundamentalist leaders and activists were tried last year for plotting against the state and sentenced to jail terms ranging from a few years to life.

Ex-Italian diplomat going to Sudan as U.N. envoy

UNITED NATIONS (R) — An Italian diplomat was appointed Monday as special U.N. envoy to Sudan where a million people risk starvation resulting from a 10-year-old civil war. Vieri Trakler, a former U.N. ambassador from Italy, intends to visit the country and neighbouring nations shortly to focus international attention on Sudan's humanitarian crisis. A U.N. statement said Mr. Trakler, who would also go to Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, would consult with Nigerian authorities, host country for the recent abortive peace talks between the Sudanese government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

Iranian police nab highway robbers

TEHRAN (R) — Police have arrested four thieves who stopped a businessman on an airport highway after he returned from Germany and robbed him of about \$120,000 cash, a newspaper said. The robbers, posing as security agents, stopped the Iranian businessman's taxi on the highway, told him he was under investigation and took him to their car, making off with his case containing 162,000 German marks (\$100,000) and \$20,000 in cash, it said. Police tracked down the robbers by watching street corner foreign exchange dealers. A fraction of the cash plus large amounts of rials were recovered from the robbers who said they bought two cars with the rest of the money, Kayhan said. Thieves face long jail terms in Iran.

World Bank readies Yemen education project

SANA (R) — The World Bank is preparing a project to improve the quality of secondary education in Yemen, a senior bank official said Monday. Senior specialist Yogenara Saran said the six-year project, costing between \$30 million and \$60 million, would also improve female access to secondary education and establish a community college system oriented to the labour market. Mr. Saran, who is leading a team in Sanaa, said the World Bank was expected to decide in October on final approval for the project and how much financial support to offer. He said the World Bank has since 1972 loaned former South Yemen and North Yemen over \$175 million to cover 14 educational and health projects.

Bomb explodes at Iran newspaper office

TEHRAN (R) — A bomb exploded at the office of Etelaat, Iran's second biggest newspaper publishing group, a newspaper reported. Salam newspaper said the blast hit the ground floor of the Etelaat office in central Tehran last week. It did not say if it caused any casualties or damage. Etelaat editors declined to comment on the report. Windows of the Etelaat office were smashed during a protest last month by a group of "Basiji," paramilitary volunteers in the Revolutionary Guards Corps, who took offence at an issue of Etelaat's weekly magazine. Salam said the explosion which occurred after midnight was probably linked to the same row which started when the weekly printed the picture of a Revolutionary Guard commander killed during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war next to a story headlined: "I have become mentally disturbed." The weekly denied the layout was intentional and apologised for the slip. Etelaat is the sixth Iranian publication whose office has come under attack by bombs or demonstrators for various reasons in the past two years.

Saudis collect \$95 million to help Bosnians

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has collected over \$95 million in private and official donations to help Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the official Saudi Press News Agency said Monday. The agency, quoting an announcement by a Saudi government charitable organisation, said the organisation collected 241.5 million riyals (\$64.5 million) from private donations and 114.6 million (\$30.5 million) from government and official sources. It said most of the aid, coordinated by the higher committee for the collection of donations, was given directly to the Muslim government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It said the committee was also supervising the feeding of hundreds of refugees at Muslim camps in the Croatian cities of Zagreb and Split. It was also organising health care and education for the refugees, the agency said. The committee is run by Prince Salman Ben Abdul Aziz, governor of Riyadh and brother of King Fahd.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 L'histoire des Climats
19:15 News in French
19:30 French Varieties
20:45 News in Hebrew
21:00 News in English
21:20 Channel 2 million
21:45 Soccer Match
22:00 News in English
22:20 Second Half of Match
23:00 The Gray Train

PRAYER TIMES

03:56 Fajr (Sunrise) Dhu'l-Hijja
12:32 Dhuhr (Noon)
16:13 'Asr (Afternoon)
19:37 Maghrib (Evening)
21:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifieh, Tel. 810/40
Archdiocese of God Church, Tel. 657/85
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624500
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrancto Church Tel. 622366

Min./Max. temp.

Anman 15 / 23
Aqaba 22 / 35

Deserts 15 / 31

Jordan Valley 20 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Anman 27, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Anman 20 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Imran 612232

Dr. Nidal al Mahdi 751672

Dr. Yousef Rashed 856301

Dr. Mukhlis Mazzarbeh 820425

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055

Naimah pharmacy 632672

Al Salam pharmacy 634949

Yacoubi pharmacy 637660

Simeisani pharmacy 622672

Nairoujib pharmacy 622672

Najib pharmacy 847632

Al-Bayan Pharmacy 637632

Israeli treasury says closure slows growth

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's treasury forecast Monday that a closure imposed on the occupied territories two months ago is slowing Israeli economic growth in 1993 and accelerating inflation.

It said the closure, limiting the number of Palestinians from the occupied territories allowed to work in Israel, had mostly hurt the building and farming sectors. It was imposed after 13 Israelis died in Arab attacks in March.

The treasury report, given to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet Sunday, predicted the closure will slow economic growth by 0.5 to one per cent while boosting annual inflation by two to three points.

Gross domestic product rose 6.4 per cent in 1992 compared with 5.9 per cent in 1991. Inflation in 1992 was a single-digit figure for the first time in 23 years — 9.4 per cent, down from 18 per cent in 1991.

While Mr. Rabin has cited "security benefits" in sealing off the occupied territories' Palestinians, the report by Finance Minister Abraham Shorat stressed the economic drawbacks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kooijmans in Beirut after Syria, Jordan

BEIRUT (AP) — Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijman discussed the Middle East peace process with Lebanese officials Monday. After talks with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, he told reporters he was "thrilled by the return of peace to Lebanon." Mr. Kooijman was the first ranking Dutch official to visit Lebanon since the 15-year civil war ended in 1990. He arrived from Jordan late Sunday. He said his swing was aimed at urging the Arabs and Israel to stick to the Middle East peace process, despite the lack of progress 19 months after it was launched. "It is my fervent wish to see the Middle East peace process successful in the near future," he said.

Turks link Iranian centre to attacks

ANKARA (AP) — A senior Turkish official claimed in an interview published Monday that Iran's cultural centre in Ankara made the arrangements for members of a Turkish Muslim extremist group to receive "terrorist" training in Iran. Renewing charges of an Iranian hand behind "terrorist" attacks in Turkey, Interior Minister Ismet Soguz for the first time identified two Iranian diplomats who purportedly had contacts with the Turkish group called Islamic Action. Two members of Islamic Action are in jail for a failed attack against a prominent Jewish businessman in Istanbul earlier this year and the group is also suspected in the killing in January on Ugo Mucci, a leading Turkish critic of Islamic fundamentalism. A high-level security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said officials of the Iranian Cultural Centre were protected by diplomatic immunity, which hampered efforts to detain further evidence.

U.S. ties emerge as Iran campaign topic

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian presidential candidate said Monday he favoured a face-to-face dialogue with the United States to improve relations, marred by acrimony since the rise of the Islamic revolution in 1979. "Some would consider direct talks as being harmful whereas indirect talks are much more harmful," former parliament member Rajab Ali Taheri said, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). He spoke during a debate at IRNA's headquarters which was supposed to be attended by all four candidates running in the June 11 presidential race, including President Hashemi Rafsanjani. However, only Mr. Taheri and one rival, Abdullah Jafar Alai Jaseri, a university chancellor, attended, said IRNA, monitored in Nicosia. The fourth contestant is former Labour Minister Ahmad Tavakoli. "We would not yield to the hegemony of any government," Mr. Taheri said. "Direct talks with Washington to normalise relations" could help safeguard Iranian interests, like unfreezing Iranian assets. "In our foreign policy towards other countries, the United States included, we are not hostile to any government or nation," he added, according to IRNA.

'Peru knowingly shot down U.S. plane'

NEW YORK (R) — Secret documents show that Peruvian fighter jets knowingly shot down a U.S. spy plane last year, killing a crew member, Newsweek magazine reported Sunday. According to a secret U.S. embassy cable obtained by the magazine, a Peruvian base commander "no doubt" that his pilots knew they shot at a U.S. plane. Newsweek said U.S. Air Force Sergeant Joseph Beard, 34, was reported missing off the Peruvian coast on April 24, 1992, after he was sucked out of a C-130H at 18,500 feet through a hole blown in the plane by Peruvian fighter jets. Four other crewmen were injured. The magazine said the plane was on a spy mission — code-named Furtive Bear — to Peru to secretly photograph cocaine labs and airstrips in the coca-rich Upper Huallaga valley. It was intercepted and forced down by Peruvian jets. But, Newsweek reported, "the U.S. and Peruvian governments don't want anyone to find out why" the plane was shot down. The Pentagon did little to publicise the incident except to clear both countries of serious wrongdoing, it said.



SHORTLIVED TALKS: Jasra Topic, leader of U.N. forces, for talks with Muslims. Fifteen minutes later the talks collapsed (see related story on page 8)

London-based organisation seeks to address human rights in Muslim World

By Masa Aloul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The lack of democracy and respect for human rights in the Muslim World is largely responsible for instability, underdevelopment and poverty and thus has led a group of Muslim intellectuals from different parts of the Muslim World to found Liberty.

Liberty, according to its founders, aims at defending and promoting human rights, civil liberties and democratic reforms in the Muslim World.

The organisation was established in February 1992 in London. According to its charter, Liberty is not associated to any political group and does not serve the interest of any regime or government. It is financed by its founding members and donations from supporters and friends.

The aim of the organisation is to shed the light on the "ongoing violation and abuse of human rights so as to enlighten the world's public opinion to the conditions in some countries controlled by totalitarians and repressive regimes in the Muslim World."

of Legitimate Rights as part of growing calls for reforms in the oil-rich kingdom since the Gulf war.

Liberty has urged the Saudi authorities to release the members of the committee and its supporters. The organisation sees Saudi arrests as further complicating the issue and advocates democratic reforms in Saudi Arabia to ensure the promotion of human rights and civil liberties there.

The organisation has also been active during the Yemeni elections held late last month. Liberty then issued a report on it and attended and monitored the election process as part of its campaign to lobby world support for Muslim countries that take bold steps towards democracy.

The organisation is considering opening branches in the Muslim countries that are willing to practise democracy and accept it. Asked if it was its intention to improve the image of Islam in the West, Sultan said in a letter to the Jordan Times that such an endeavour would be "accomplished as a side-product of our activities."

When someone in the audience shouted, "Bush in '96," Mr. Bush said he has no interest in running again.

Mr. Bush said he and wife, Barbara, are very happy in private life, painting a homey picture on Mrs. Bush cooking the former president washing dishes, and dog Millie drying them.

Mrs. Bush is writing a book, he said, and he plans to write one as well. They keep close tabs on their children and celebrated the birth of their 13th grandchild Thaddeus.

Mr. Bush also said the plot to assassinate him during his recent visit to Kuwait was genuine and that he did not learn about it until he returned to the United States.

"Some of you probably read about the attempt in Kuwait, and it was real," Mr. Bush said.

"We didn't know about it until after the fact, after we got back to the states," he said. "But had I known ... I still would have gone."

Mr. Bush would only urge association members not to cave in to anti-lobbying pressure and to keep pushing their legislators on issues they care about.

Mr. Bush sounded at times like a candidate, albeit a much more relaxed and confident one than he was during the campaign.

"I really wanted to clean up the environment and work with Congress. Or was it work with the environment and clean up Congress?" Mr. Bush joked, drawing laughter and applause.

He said he was not bitter and would not cast himself in the role of presidential critic or Congress-basher. Then he blamed the media and Congress for his ouster.

Mr. Bush would only urge association members not to cave in to anti-lobbying pressure and to keep pushing their legislators on issues they care about.

Mr. Bush sounded at times like a candidate, albeit a much more relaxed and confident one than he was during the campaign.

"If there was ever a status quo in Washington, it wasn't at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. It was on Capitol Hill," he said.

"You'd think that one of these days, the Congress would wake up and make themselves live by the laws they pass for everybody else."

Women treated worse than men — U.N. report

WASHINGTON (AP) — United Nations researchers are gathering information about the world's women, and so far they have not found a single country that treats its women as well as its men.

Throughout the world, women are the neglected majority, the 1993 U.N. Human Development Report concludes.

Only 33 countries now keep enough gender-based statistics to make comparisons, according to Mahbub Ul Haq, head of a U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) project which is attempting to chronicle the quality of life everywhere on the planet.

Despite a spreading struggle among women for equality that includes changes in national laws and other efforts to decrease gender bias, "no country treats its women as well as it treats its men," the report being released Tuesday reveals.

It draws the conclusion based on a statistical study of the 33 countries and determines that some do much better than others in giving equal opportunities and treatment to women.

Among the worst is Japan, which is ranked number one in the U.N.'s 1993 human development index but drops to seventh when gender differences are considered. The report, including the index, was made available to news media earlier this month and was being formally released at a news conference in New Delhi.

When gender differences are factored in, Japan drops to 17th place in the quality-of-life index and was promoted to 17th place in the index.

The report also concludes that if women's unpaid housework were counted as productive output in national income accounts, global output would increase by 20-30 per cent.

Betselem assails house demolitions

(Continued from page 1)

The report came as Cornelio Sommaruga, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross wound up a four-day tour of Israel and the occupied territories in which he criticised Israel for denying basic human rights to Palestinians.

Mr. Sommaruga told reporters: "I am caring for law and order in your occupied territories, means have to be used that would not be disproportionate of what is the situation and I consider using five-millimetre ammunition is a serious problem."

A statement from Mr. Weizman said:

"Mr. Sommaruga told reporters: 'I am caring for law and order in your occupied territories, means have to be used that would not be disproportionate of what is the situation and I consider using five-millimetre ammunition is a serious problem.'

He also said there still is no clear answer, in his view, as to what the United States should do about Bosnia.

Mr. Bush said he still has some misgivings about not taking any particular action, but said his military commanders could not tell him exactly what the mission should be, "how it would be accomplished and how U.S. troop involvement would be ended."

"I would be very reluctant to commit force to this situation," Mr. Bush said, adding that military intervention could not work the same way as it did in the Gulf war.

Mr. Bush, who referred to his speech to the oastional restaurant association as his "coming out party," refused to criticise Clinton even though he was offered a tempting target when a member of the audience asked him where he got his hair cut when he was in the White House. Mr. Clinton this week was the target of criticism for an expensive haircut he had which delayed air traffic.

"I really think it would be inappropriate to criticise the president in a personal way," Mr. Bush said.

But, in musing about his administration and why he lost the election, Mr. Bush warned about the hazards of mixing perception and reality, especially when it comes to making policy on the basis of opinion polls.

Ministry seeks to blow off smoke clouding cigarette market

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A chronic shortage of foreign-made cigarettes in the local market which sent prices shooting up in the past two weeks will be addressed with the arrival Thursday of a shipment by air, officials said Monday.

"We are expecting 250 cartons (of 50 ten-packs) each of the popular brands to land here Thursday, and this will give us a breathing space until another similar shipment arrives after the 'Eid holidays," said Mustafa Khleifat, secretary-general of the Ministry of Supply.

He said regular shipments by sea were being realigned to cope with the local demand and said he did not expect any recurrence of the shortage that left thousands rummaging through the market for their

favourite brands.

Mr. Khleifat said the ministry, which holds the monopoly of importing cigarettes to the Kingdom, found itself out of stock as a result of an unexpected demand in the market prompted by a tightening of controls on both sides of the Syrian-Jordanian borders against smuggling.

"Those who used to smoke smuggled cigarettes had no choice but to turn to those imported by the ministry and our stocks quickly ran out," he explained.

He said the authorities were reassessing their import schedules and drawing up new plans to cope with what is expected to be a continued high demand for legally imported cigarettes in the face of shortages of smuggled cigarettes.

A gradual rise of prices was visible in the market over the

past six weeks, but there was no clear indication why.

Market sources said black market dealers in smuggled cigarettes, particularly the popular Marlboro brand, more than doubled their prices in the past week.

A packet of smuggled Marlboro cigarettes which used to cost JD 1.1 in retail at the Ministry of Supply price for the brand was being sold for as much as JD 2.5 this week.

Stockists of ministry-imported Marlboros also joined in the fray to take advantage of the situation.

Prices of several other smuggled brands also went up. L&M, described as the "poor man's Marlboro," was being sold at JD 1.1 a pack compared with 600 fils two weeks ago.

Based on conservative estimates that around three million foreign-made cigarettes are consumed in Jordan every

day, market sources say the black market dealers made several million dinars in the bargain.

Mr. Khleifat said the ministry knew what was going on and that the authorities were launching legal proceedings against those found to have violated the price regulations.

He could not provide any explanation as to why many people preferred smuggled Marlboros at a higher price when ministry-imported Marlboros were available in plenty before the crisis.

"We asked the manufacturers and they told us that the quality was uniform throughout all types," he said.

But many smokers disagree. They say that the packets which bear the number "5" on the American consumer code bar contain a "distinctly different" quality and flavour than those with "4" and "3". The

diplomats in Jordan have their own arrangements and the bargain.

Another factor that contributed to the shortage, other sources said, was the dwindling of smuggling from Saudi Arabia.

The annual pilgrimage season has brought in hundreds of thousands of foreigners into Saudi Arabia, creating high demands within the Kingdom and leaving little for smuggling, they said.

Cigarette smuggling, a multi-million-dollar industry in Jordan, has been going on for many years. Seepage into local market also came from contraband originally bound for Iraq through the free zones in Jordan in the past years.

"Very little smuggling is now going on from Lebanon to Syria, and this led to shortages in the Syrian market," explained one source. "This in turn led to reduced quantities available for smuggling into Jordan from Syria, and the tightening of control measures on the Syrian-Jordanian borders made things worse for smugglers."

Column 8

Clinton, Chelsea stroll to local book store

WASHINGTON (R) — Any other father and daughter taking a walk Sunday would have gone largely unnoticed, but President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea stopped traffic and some tourists during a rare afternoon stroll. Tourists and motorists were surprised to see the president walking hand-in-hand to a local book store some three blocks away from the White House. Mr. Clinton, whose image as a man of the people was tarnished by news of his \$200 haircut aboard Air Force One at Los Angeles Airport last week, shook some hands and nodded hello to awed tourists.

The president and his daughter passed over a book about first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on display in the window and another on Chelsea's cat, Socks. Instead, the president bought the latest book by Scott Turow titled *Pleading Guilty*, while 13-year-old Chelsea settled on five science fiction books.

Ramos takes early morning jog at National Museum

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos didn't let an out-of-town visit interrupt his daily jog Monday. At 5:45 a.m., with a contingent of security personnel and colleagues, Gen. Ramos ran about 3.5 kilometres and performed calisthenics near the National Museum in central Seoul, aides said. Gen. Ramos arrived here Sunday for a four-day state visit which includes talks with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and a speech at an Asian economic conference. He was driven to the museum grounds from his hotel.

U.K. health officials to review fertility cases

LONDON (R) — British health officials may stop free fertility treatment for single women after disclosures that mother who gave birth to sextuplets in unmarried and living apart from the father, newspapers said. "Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley is to order a tightening of rules governing the expensive procedure," the Daily Express said. Medical authorities were criticised after it was disclosed that Jean Gibbons, who gave birth to five girls and a boy in the northern city of Leeds, was not married and already had a child. Religious and family groups were demanding to know why Ms. Gibbons, 29, had been accepted for fertility treatment on the government's National Health Service when hundreds of married couples were on waiting lists. The Daily Telegraph said ministers will examine guidelines governing the selection of patients for fertility treatment in light of the controversy. Under the current system regional health authorities decide who will receive the treatment and in some cases hospital doctors. Junior Health Minister Tim Yeo told the Daily Telegraph there were serious questions about why such treatment should be provided to an unmarried woman.

Poor Brits

LONDON (R) — One in four of Europe's poor is British and only Portugal has more people living in poverty than Britain, the observer newspaper said. It said according to the European definition of poverty — an income of less than half of the EC average of £150 (\$232) a week — 12 million of the continent's 50 million poor are British. "We are the only country without a minimum wage or statutory protection on working hours, and among the worst on maternity provision, pensions and child care," Chris Pond, director of the Low Pay Unit lobby group, was quoted as saying.

Tourists turned away from Yosemite

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, California (AP) — Visitors without reservations were turned away from Yosemite National Park during the weekend because a heavy snow pack was blocking two important roads. The park was closed for about three hours on both Saturday and Sunday and may be closed for the same time period on Memorial Day weekend, said park spokeswoman Marla Lacass. About 2,000 snow were turned away Sunday. Snow plows have been encountering 10-foot

Features

Piracy hotspot moves to Hong Kong triangle

By Jeff Daeschner
Reuter

LONDON — Piracy, the ancient scourge of sailors, has disappeared from many areas of the world but it still strikes fear into the hearts of crews in Southeast Asia.

Maritime officials here say that despite a decline in reports of attacks worldwide, the global hotspot for piracy seems to have shifted from near the narrow Malacca Strait separating Indonesia and Malaysia to a triangle between China, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

"Piracy in many areas has just disappeared," said Eric Ellen, director of the International Marine Bureau (IMB), at the organisation's headquarters in Barking, near London. "It's now located in a very distinct triangle."

The senior technical body of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the United Nations agency that monitors safety on the seas, is due to begin a five-day meeting in London on piracy and other issues on May 24.

The meeting follows a series of mysterious attacks in the part of the triangle near Hong Kong where at least 15 of the 31 incidents reported in the first four months of this year have occurred. This compares with 10 in the southern part of the South China Sea near Indonesia and Malaysia.

International pressure on the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia seems to have decreased the number of attacks near the Malacca Strait.

Officials say they are unsure of the reason behind many of the Hong Kong triangle attacks, which appear to be related to China's efforts to control smuggling into its ports.

"We have classified them all as piratical attacks until we find out their cause," Mr. Ellen said, adding that many of the attacks qualify as piracy because they occur in international waters and are unwarranted interceptions.

In mid-April, a patrol boat identified as Chinese suddenly approached the Panamanian cargo ship Sun Kung 08 about 290 miles southeast of Hong Kong and ordered it to stop.

When the ship refused, the patrol boat opened fire on it and chased it for 30 minutes. Two Chinese guards eventually jumped on board, jammed the boat's radio transmissions and held the captain at gunpoint on the pretence that the vessel, which was carrying plywood bound for Hong Kong, was been done to really effectively stop the attacks."

Recent deaths in attacks in Southeast Asia show that pirates have become increasingly violent, officials say.

In late April, a boat with 12 armed men stopped four fishing vessels near the Philippines and ordered the crews to jump overboard. The pirates stole the vessels and left.

Five days later, a Chinese patrol vessel fired machineguns at the cargo ship Beacon in international waters south of Hong Kong. The ship escaped by increasing speed.

The Hong Kong Marine Department has protested against these attacks and plans to report them at the IMO meeting.

Mr. Ellen said he hoped to find out the reason for the attacks by creating an independent investigative body that would be run by the IMB's regional centre in Kuala Lumpur and which would provide more details than local authorities' reports.

"In order to combat piracy, you have to know exactly the details of what went on," he said. "Unless you know why (the attacks occurred), it's very difficult to combat them."

Reports of attacks worldwide dropped last year to 83 from 107 in 1991, but some experts say the

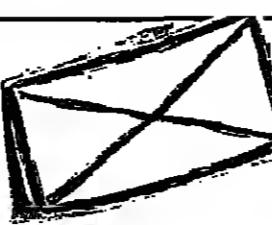
figures do not reflect the real total.

Shipping companies often do not report attacks, either to protect their reputation among customers or to avoid delays and the high costs of keeping vessels in port for investigations.

"It's still running at far too high a level," said Andrew Limington, spokesman for the British Merchant Navy Officers' Union. "We can't see that anything has been done to really effectively stop the attacks."

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JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1993 5

Stand up and challenge the world

Following is the abridged version of the address made by Sue Dahdah, director of the Abdul Hamid Sharaf School, to school graduates Monday, May 24, 1993:

Prejudice and intolerance towards certain peoples of the world which ultimately leads to violence and war is another problem. We still have not learned to accept people who are different.

Instead of becoming a more civilized world as we move towards the 21st century, we are becoming more barbaric. We need intelligent young people to work in the social and political sciences to help combat prejudices.

World health is a problem. We have many incurable diseases that are killing many people. We need intelligent young people to work in scientific research laboratories to find cures for some of the dreadful diseases of our times.

Another problem in the world is education. Too many people are illiterate and are not in schools. Even those who are in school are not being educated to meet the needs of a changing world. We see evidence of this in our own society. People are not learning to think for themselves. Too many people are influenced by what others do and say. We need broad-minded, intelligent young people in the teaching field.

One of the most pressing world problems is the use of energy, natural resources and water. Wise use of natural resources and finding ways to provide enough clean water to meet our basic needs in the present and future is becoming more of a problem every day. People all over the world treat water as a never-ending commodity and waste it profusely. We need intelligent young people to work as geologists and environmentalists.

Providing enough food for the growing population of the world

is another problem. Many people are malnourished and many are starving. We need intelligent young people in the field of agriculture.

means the responsibility to participate in the life of the community and nation to make it a better place for all to live and work.

It is not an easy task that has

been set for the country and its people, but no one ever said that life would be easy. Remember that wherever you go in the world for education, work or whatever, you will face problems. Hopefully you will be equipped to deal with them wisely. Hopefully you will have the self-confidence and self-respect to stand up to difficulties.

In closing, let me tell you what many people say. They claim that

today's youth lack curiosity and patience and that they are indifferent, have a poor sense of the future, are cruel, materialistic,

dependent and passive. I challenge you to go out into the world as caring, intelligent, broad-minded young people to prove these pessimists wrong.



Dr. Sue Dahdah welcomes Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday to the Abdul Hamid Sharaf Secondary School for the fifth graduation ceremony

A bodyguard's widow takes on the Mafia

By Clare Pedrick

other women whose husbands had been judges, businessmen, politicians and policemen before being murdered. Many of the widows, who had seen court cases drag on for years and judges hand on acquittals to men suspected of being killers, were deeply cynical and warned Rosaria not to expect justice. "I hoped for so many years," said Maria Giuliano, whose husband, police chief Boris Giuliano, was killed by the Mafia in 1979.

The more she learned, the more fascinated and horrified Rosaria became, and the more determined to make some contribution to defeating the network that had devastated her own life and that of so many other innocent people. "Before, I never took any interest in the Mafia, in politics, in those things," said Rosaria. "I was wrong. I was only interested in my own life — a very simple life."

Rosaria's decision to launch her own personal battle was strongly motivated by a desire to explain to her small son why he was left fatherless at such a young age, and to try to pass on a better world for him to grow up in. Prefacing the book is a copy of a hand-written letter from Rosaria to her infant son, written shortly after Vito Schifani was killed in the explosion. "Papa is no longer here because the Mafia murdered him one May evening, with a killer bomb rigged to murder a good judge whom he was protecting," reads the letter. "I would like to explain to you properly what the Mafia is and why they did this. But first I have to understand myself."

Rosaria explains to the reader the workings of the Mafia, as she herself unravels it — the links between the organised crime network and Italy's political class,

young policeman whose dream was to become a police helicopter pilot. The couple met when Vito was on duty, keeping control at a crowded Palermo unemployment office. Rosaria had gone there to look for a job as a teacher. Vito invited her for a coffee. The next day they met again. He took her name to meet his family. Soon, they were engaged, then married. Rosaria recalls the honeymoon in the Maldives, destination chosen by her husband because it meant a long nine-hour flight, a blissful prospect for the airplane-mad policeman. "Someone had given us a video-camera as a wedding present," recalls Rosaria. "The first 15 minutes of our honeymoon video are all shots of the cockpit and of the other airplanes and helicopters on the landing strip."

Rosaria and Vito went to live with Vito's parents, in their modest five-room apartment in Palermo. Rosaria had also applied to join the police force. Then Antonino came a long and the plan

was put on hold. Realising their family would soon be too big to stay with Vito's parents, the couple looked for a place of their own. They found what they wanted and spent hours poring over pencil and paper, planning how they would furnish it. They never moved into their new home. Vito was killed before they had a chance, little more than a year after they were married. "I haven't been back there since," said Rosaria.

Rosaria describes how she learned of the death of her husband, of the terrible dash first to the hospital, then to the mortuary, where she was allowed to see Vito's hands but nothing else. Vito Schifani and the other two bodyguards had been travelling in the first car of the convoy, the one which took the full force of the 600-pound explosion. Their Fiat Croma was catapulted several hundred yards into an olive grove on the side of the freeway.

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Like this man, Vito Schifani, was a bodyguard and it cost him his life a year ago (WNL)

AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL

SUMMER SCHOOL



The ABS school is pleased to announce that it will be offering its eighth annual summer school from Saturday 26 June until Thursday 22 July. The programme will include a variety of academic, creative and sporting activities for children aged 4 to 17. In addition there will be special programmes in Math, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and computing for IGCSE and IB. For more information about a stimulating and enjoyable summer programme for your child please contact the School.



TEI : 845572, 847191, - Fax : 834603.
P. O Box : 441 Sweileh.
Director of Summer School
Abdel Razzaq Najjar.

Cypriot leaders to study confidence-building steps

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali proposed Monday that leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities begin talks here this week by discussing placing part of the uninhabited resort town of Varosha under U.N. administration and reopening Nicosia Airport, also under U.N. control.

Both have ceased to function since Turkish troops landed in the north of the island in 1974, after a coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Dr. Ghali was addressing a closed-door session attended by Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, and by representatives of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France.

The secretary-general was accompanied by his new special representative for Cyprus, former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark.

The meeting, which lasted about 40 minutes, marked the start of a new round of long-running negotiations aimed at reunifying the divided island in a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

The talks have so far concentrated on a so-called "set of ideas" and map which Dr. Ghali presented to both sides last summer. The most recent negotiating round ended inconclusively last November.

According to a copy of the secretary-general's opening remarks, obtained by Reuters, he proposed that, before returning to the "set of ideas" and map, they focus first on measures designed to foster confidence between the two communities.

He suggested they begin by discussing two "especially significant and related" issues:

A. Placing an important part of Varosha — the former Greek Cypriot resort adjoining Famagusta — under U.N. administration "and it's becoming a special area for bi-communal contact and commerce open equally to both sides," and

B. The reopening, also under U.N. administration, of Nicosia Airport "for passengers and cargo traffic from and to both sides."

'U.S. tried to topple Qadhafi with Iraqi aid'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States sent Libyan rebels to train in Iraq in the 1980s so they could overthrow Muammar Qadhafi, former government officials said Monday.

The operation was part of a developing intelligence relationship between Iraq and the United States that was to include over time the passing of U.S. satellite information to help Baghdad in its eight-year war with Iran, the official said.

The full extent of the cooperation has not been revealed. But the Bush administration, defending itself against a storm of congressional criticism following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, left the impression it was limited to U.S. help for Iraq against Iran.

The decision to send several hundred Libyans for training in Iraq served several purposes, said former Reagan White House aide Howard Teicher in an interview.

Iraq wanted to get even with Colonel Qadhafi for supporting Iran in the war, he said, and Egypt wanted to encourage U.S. support for Iraq to block Iran from winning and spreading Muslim fundamentalism through the region.

Also, said Mr. Teicher, the United States wanted to topple Col. Qadhafi, accusing him of terrorism and attempts to destabilise his neighbours.

The Libyan exiles attempted a coup against Col. Qadhafi in May 1984, but it was immediately crushed. Mr. Teicher recounted

The secretary-general said these two confidence-building measures "carry concrete benefits to each side and to Cyprus as a whole."

Placing part of Varosha under U.N. administration would benefit Greek Cypriots and others who would be able to reclaim possession of their properties, he said.

At the same time the Turkish Cypriot side would derive important benefits from "guaranteed opportunities to engage freely in business in the area and from the fact that foreign tourists will be able to pass through the area to the northern part of the island and to stay there."

The Turkish Cypriots proclaimed their own state in the north of the island in 1983 with Mr. Denktash as president but it is recognised only by Turkey and is the object of a boycott by the Greek Cypriots.

Dr. Ghali continued: "With the reopening, under United Nations administration, of Nicosia International Airport, located in the United Nations protected areas and defunct since 1974, passengers and cargo could access freely through the airport to and from each side."

"The transforming impact of this measure on the economic situation of the Turkish Cypriot community is clear," he added.

The deputy U.N. representative for Cyprus, Gustave Feissel, who recently took up residence in Nicosia, has discussed both issues with the two leaders during the past month.

"It will be a principal objective of ours this week to finalise agreement on these important measures," the secretary-general said.

Dr. Ghali leaves New York next weekend on a lengthy trip to North Africa and Europe and the Cyprus talks are expected to continue only until the end of this week.

On Tuesday, Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash were due to hold a joint meeting with senior U.N. officials including Mr. Clark, Mr. Feissel and Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mark R. Goulding, in preparation for a meeting with Dr. Ghali later in the day.



KADDOURI IN BEIRUT: Lebanese Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoura (left) Tuesday welcomes a delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headed by Political Department head Farouk Kaddoura (right) Tuesday welcomes a delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) team (AP photo)

Security Council extends sanctions imposed on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— The U.N. Security Council Monday decided to keep economic sanctions clamped on Iraq because Baghdad is seen as still not cooperating fully with the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

The sanctions bar all trade with Iraq, but allow it to import food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But with no legal foreign trade, Baghdad has little or no hard currency to buy food and medicine abroad.

At one of its periodic 60-day reviews of the comprehensive sanctions on Iraq, the council members saw no reason to relax the sanctions regime.

The decision came hours after reports circulated that the Iraqi government was massing troops and tanks in northern Iraq, raising fears of a renewed attack on Kurds in the region.

Iraq still refuses to recognise the border demarcated by U.N. surveyors between it and Kuwait, and last week boycotted the final meetings of the U.N. boundary commission that redrew the border.

U.S. officials are also investigating whether the government sent Iraqi agents into Kuwait to assassinate former President George Bush when he visited the emirate in late April to receive thanks for helping liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

The sanctions were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Iraqi troops occupied the emirate for seven months until they were driven out by the U.S.-led allied coalition in the Gulf war.

Iraq has refused to sell \$1.6 billion in oil under strict U.N.

in his book, "Twin Pillars to Desert Storm," a chronicle of U.S. policy in the Mideast from President Richard Nixon to President George Bush.

Another former official, who asked not to be named, said the plot involved a raid by seaborne commandos who fired rockets and machine guns towards a military barracks used by Col. Qadhafi.

The operation was crushed, and the estimated 15 rebels were killed in the raid or captured and later executed. The exiles were mostly students and dissidents living in Britain, Italy and other European countries, said Mr. Teicher.

The United States also trained other Libyans, captured in Chad when Libya invaded that country in the mid-1980s, to mount cross-border sabotage raids but failed to inflict much damage in Libya.

The Bush administration brought some 300 of these Libyan prisoners to the United States in 1991 after Chad evicted them.

Iraq's willingness to train Libyan exiles encouraged those in the administration who wanted improved ties with Baghdad, said Mr. Teicher, an opponent of the developing relationship.

The cooperation also strengthened those in the administration who argued that Iraq had stopped its support of "terrorism" and was proving it by its willingness to fight Libyan "terrorism," he said.

Yet apparently nothing was done to stop the huge gun being prepared by British engineering firms until barrel sections were intercepted on their way to Iraq in April 1990 — four months

before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Mr. Miller also accused former Attorney General Sir Patrick Mayhew of trying to prevent evidence about the case from coming to court. He said Mr. Mayhew, now Northern Ireland secretary, urged him not to produce documents that could have cleared businessmen accused of illegally exporting weapons to Iraq.

Ministers were prepared to see businessmen wrongly convicted rather than tell how much they knew about our arms trade with Iraq," Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Mayhew denied Mr. Miller's allegations.

"I have never urged Sir Hal Miller or anyone else to withhold evidence which would advantage a defendant," he said in a statement. He offered to testify to the inquiry.

Mr. Miller, a long-time leading Conservative with close links to defence equipment firms, has been a key figure in inquiries into the supergun scandal. But this is the first time he has publicly said he told intelligence about the gun in 1988.

Prime Minister John Major ordered the current inquiry by Lord Justice Scott after a fresh case of arms exports to Iraq exploded last November when three British businessmen from the Iraqi-owned engineering firm Matrix Churchill were acquitted of illegally selling arms-making machine tools to Iraq.

Their trial collapsed when the court accepted the government may have relaxed its own arms export rules and encouraged arms and arms-released sales to Iraq.

The government acknowledged to the 1991-92 parliamentary inquiry that guidelines written in 1948 and published in 1985 were

amended with the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988. They were eased to cover only "lethal" equipment of direct and significant aid to either country, thus exempting machine tools.

But the Miller evidence adds to a belief by many politicians that intelligence services knew more than they let on about the supergun and arms sales in general.

"If Sir Hal Miller's comments are right then this was certainly not a cockup, it would be a conspiracy," said opposition Labour Party politician Jim Cousins, who took part in the inquiry. Mr. Cousins later called for Mayhew to resign.

Foreign Office Minister of State Baroness Chalker said in response to a question in parliament Monday that no lethal defence equipment had been supplied to Iran since 1979.

British politician alleges bid to cover Iraq scandal

LONDON (R) — British intelligence knew Iraq was developing a supergun years before parts were stopped on their way to Baghdad, a former politician and key informant in the British arms-for-Iraq scandal said Monday.

Sir Hal Miller also alleged at a judicial inquiry into the affair that a top government official tried to cover up the scandal — a charge that was promptly denied.

Mr. Miller said he told intelligence officers in 1988 that Iraq was having "missile tubes" manufactured by a British engineering firm. His intelligence source had replied that his information "confirmed everything they knew," he added.

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Bosnian Serbs batter Muslims as NATO debates strategy

BELGRADE (R) — Bosnian Serb rebels unleashed an artillery barrage Tuesday against a Muslim city packed with civilians, as European states in NATO offered warplanes to help protect "safe areas."

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic meanwhile assured Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin that Belgrade has curtailed military supplies to the rebels to pressure them to accept an international peace plan.

U.N. officials said Serb forces launched a shelling offensive against Maglaj in north Bosnia, threatening tens of thousands of trapped civilians.

The attack coincided with a meeting in Brussels of NATO defence ministers on a new Western policy to contain the conflict in Bosnia.

They met to discuss how to protect Muslim enclaves designated as "safe areas" with troops and air power and heard offers of warplanes from some European member states.

Muslim-controlled Bosnian radio said the shelling of Maglaj continued Tuesday for the tenth

straight day and said Serb artillery attacked the nearby Brcko area.

Bosnian Serbs countered that the Serb villages of Gornja Paklenica, Jabucic Polje and Strjezave near Maglaj were attacked by Muslim artillery, the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) reported.

Bosnian Muslims and Croats fought each other in the south Bosnia city of Mostar overnight after a week-old joint command fell apart over the issue of control of civilian police, Croatian radio reported Tuesday morning.

Small arms fire and occasional detonations were heard at dawn after Muslim forces launched abortive infantry attacks to break Croatian defence lines, it said.

A U.N. Protection Force spokesman in Sarajevo said Tuesday that central Bosnia, recently the site of fierce Croat-Muslim fighting was quiet but tense with three mortars falling near Kiseljak and sniping in Vitez.

But Bosnian radio reported Croat artillery and infantry "provocations" overnight near Jablanica.

Millions vote in Cambodian elections

PHNOM PENH (R) — Millions of Cambodians, including radical Khmer Rouge activists, have turned out to vote in U.N.-supervised elections, giving their backing to the country's first multi-party for decades.

Seventy per cent of registered voters had cast ballots by the time polls closed Monday night, the second day of a six-day national poll to restore democracy after decades of war and civil strife.

"What is so good is that Cambodians just went out and showed they wanted to vote," said a Western diplomat in Phnom Penh.

The Maoist Khmer Rouge, which refused to run in the elections saying they favoured its arch-enemies in the Phnom Penh government, began sending unarmed soldiers and officials out of the zones under its control to vote.

Voters are electing members of a Constituent Assembly that will draft a constitution and then form a government.

The U.N. organisers of the election said 3,518,314 Cambodians had voted and others continued to stream to the polling stations Tuesday.

The 22,000-strong U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has spent 14 months registering 4,764,430 people to vote. The total bill for U.N. operations in Cambodia is expected to come to \$4 billion.

A senior UNTAC official said the Khmer Rouge, which had threatened to disrupt the elections, were trucking voters to the district of Thmar Pouk near the Thai border in Banteay Meanchey province.

"They want to make sure war-

lord Dien Del gets elected," he said.

General Dien Del leads the anti-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces, which controls the region.

Dien Del, regarded as one of the ablest commanders in the U.S.-supported army of General Lon Nol in the mid-1970s, has long had a close relationship with General Prom Sou, the local Khmer Rouge chief, despite their opposite ideologies.

The Khmer Rouge put Cambodia through a reign of terror in the 1970s in which a million people died through execution, starvation, disease and forced labour.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said 200 Khmer Rouge soldiers came to the polls in Poi Pet on the Thai border, unarmed and with voter registration cards.

"They are welcome and the doors of the polling station are wide open to them," he said.

U.N. officials and diplomats said the fact that Khmer Rouge was voting was a positive sign and a change of tactics by the guerrillas, who earlier had warned any one taking part in the election would be joining an "undertaking of treason."

"Clearly it's a good sign," a second diplomat said. "But the (Khmer Rouge) voting is still on a reasonably small scale. The significance rests on how many more come in the next few days."

There were only scattered incidents of violence reported in the country Tuesday, no worse than on average days, the U.N. said.

U.N. officials who feared the polls might turn into a bloodbath had called in extra peacekeeping troops and equipment before the

Moscow's envoy Mr. Churkin told reporters after meeting Mr. Milosevic in Belgrade: "Milosevic has assured me that the decision (to seal the borders) ... has been observed," he added: "There were a couple of doubtful cases but they were explained to me."

Mr. Milosevic, previously seen in the West as a key backer of the Bosnian Serbs, made an about-turn last month as U.N. sanctions started to bite and threw his weight behind a peace plan drawn up by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

He promised to cut off military support to Bosnian Serbs and seal off borders except for humanitarian aid.

Mr. Churkin and Mr. Milosevic discussed how to "generate new momentum and bring about a settlement in Bosnia," as Bosnia rivals fought battles across the beleaguered republic.

Fighting picked up again between Muslims and Croats in Mostar and the Bosnian Serbs' pounding of Maglaj prompted fear by U.N. aid workers that another refugee catastrophe was

in the making.

Mr. Churkin, who arrived in Belgrade Monday, failed to sway Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to allow U.N. observers on their frontier as urged in the current international strategy to end the civil war.

The United States, Russia and key European allies agreed Saturday on a process that would include possible use of U.S. air power to protect Muslim safe havens in Bosnia.

Observers on the Bosnian border would ensure Yugoslavia, or Serbia, did not ship weapons to Serbs in Bosnia.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government has rejected the allied strategy as "totally unacceptable" and called on the U.N. Security Council to implement instead the nine-month-old Vance-Owen peace plan.

The plan would create 10 Bosnian provinces roughly along ethnic lines and a central government in which the three ethnic groups would share power. The Muslims and Croats accepted this plan, but Serbs rejected it.

Serbs remove bodies of Sarajevo lovers

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb soldiers removed the bodies of two lovers under cover of darkness from the Sarajevo Bridge where snipers killed them a week ago, a Bosnian Serb official said Tuesday.

Veselko Gazibar, a Serb liaison with U.N. peacekeeping forces in the Bosnian capital, said the bodies of Bosko Brekic and Admira Ismic had been taken to the Serb suburb of Grbavica.

While expressing concern about the detention by the Khmer Rouge of two U.N. military personnel, who were later released unharmed, Mr. Boucher told reporters that the two had not known who was responsible.

The couple, both aged 25, were shot as they crossed a no man's land between Serb and Muslim controlled sectors while trying to escape from Sarajevo, last Wednesday.

Muslim and Serb authorities had been arguing over which side had the right to recover the bodies of Brekic, who was Serb, and Ismic, who was Muslim.

Brekic and Ismic had been sweethearts since high school.

Their bodies, locked in a last embrace, rested at the foot of the bridge over Sarajevo's Miljacka River.

Brekic's mother Radmila pleaded for the couple to be buried together.

"The world must know about this," she said, saying their "special love" had been snuffed out by killers in a crazy war.

Police set up barricades on the main roads in Katlehong, while young militants erected burning tyre barricades in the streets.

Police said they found 11 following overnight fighting, and eight people were injured in clashes Tuesday morning. The death toll in the region is at least 45 since a three-sided battle erupted Saturday between police and two rival black groups, the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Meanwhile, the PAC said dozens of its leaders had been detained and it immediately suspended its participation in the multiparty negotiations.

In a bizarre twist, Benny Alexander, the PAC's secretary general, escaped shortly after he was arrested, the group said.

Police surrounded Mr. Alexander's Johannesburg home at 4:30 a.m. (0230 GMT), witnesses said, and Craig Kotze, spokesman for the Law And Order Ministry, confirmed Mr. Alexander's



The bodies of two victims lie in the parking lot of the Guadalajara Airport after they were killed during a shootout between drug traffickers. Seven people were killed including Guadalajara's Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo and his driver, when their car apparently got caught in the crossfire (AFP photo)

Mexican cardinal killed in gun battle

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (R) —

The Roman Catholic cardinal of Guadalajara and six other people were killed by crossfire when suspected drug traffickers battled each other at the Mexican city's airport, officials said.

Some reports said Cardinal Posadas was at the airport to meet a papal representative. Others, however, said he was catching a flight to Mexico City.

According to a government statement, 20 cars were struck by bullets and in several of them police found AK-47s, rifles, hand grenades and ammunition clips.

Television reports showed hundreds of people running out of the airport terminal and dozens of police officers and possibly civilians armed and running for cover.

The airport was shut down for three hours after the shootout.

The death of the 66-year-old Cardinal Posadas — one of only two cardinals in this heavily Catholic country of 85 million people — provoked an outcry from government and church officials against violence.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari travelled to Guadalajara Monday night to attend services for Cardinal Posadas, whose funeral was to be put on display at the giant downtown cathedral.

On arriving at the airport, he said: "The Catholic people, the people of Mexico, are in mourning."

Mr. Salinas sent a letter to Pope John Paul II, who appointed Posadas Cardinal of Guadalajara two years ago, expressing regret and anger.

"The entire society and the government that leads it have expressed our strongest repudiation and our greatest indignation," he said.

Epifanio De Jesus Leal Galvan, Archbishop of Monterrey, called for police "to put an end to the wave of violence that grips our country."

Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, is considered a major drug-trafficking centre and has been the site of much drug-related violence in recent years.

Its most notorious case involved the torture and murder of U.S. drug agent Enrique Camarena by drug kingpins in 1985.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari travelled to Guadalajara

S. African police arrest PAC leaders

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — In pre-dawn raids nationwide, police arrested leaders of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), a militant black group linked to the recent mass attacks against white civilians.

It was the biggest roundup of black political leaders since President F.W. de Klerk launched reforms in 1990 to end apartheid. It also came at a delicate moment, when black and white leaders were nearing agreement on a date for the country's first election to include blacks.

The investigations are continuing and further arrests are possible, Law And Order Minister Herus Kriel said in a brief statement.

In another development, riot police in armoured vehicles waged running gun battles Tuesday morning with black residents in Katlehong, one of several townships southeast of Johannesburg convulsed by violence in recent days.

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Sports

IAAF keeps Ngugi and Krabbe under ban

STUTTGART (AP) — The world governing body of track and field Monday kept Kenyan runner John Ngugi and German sprinter Katrin Krabbe under suspension, effectively preventing them from competing at the World Outdoor Championship in August.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Council, meeting in Stuttgart, made no decision on American sprinter Butch Reynolds, the 400-metre world record holder who is involved in a legal battle with the world body over a previous doping ban.

The IAAF wants Reynolds to drop his legal action against the world body. Reynolds was awarded \$27.3 million in damages against the IAAF by a U.S. judge.

Ngugi's four year ban for refusing to submit to a drug test had been revoked by the Kenyan Federation.

The IAAF council decided to send the case back to the Kenyan Federation, asking the national body to reimpose the four-year ban, said Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF general secretary.

The council also asked its legal experts to further study the case of Krabbe and two other German sprinters, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr.

"The doping commission was convinced that there was a doping violation," Gyulai said.

The three German sprinters admitted taking the drug clenbuterol. The German Federation's legal commission reduced their four year bans to one year, and to eight months in Derr's case, on a legal technicality.



Banned German track stars Katrin Krabbe (centre), Grit Breuer (left) and Manuela Derr (AFP photo)

Until all the cases are settled, the athletes remain banned, Gyulai said.

"They have no chance of competing at the worlds," said one IAAF source, who requested anonymity.

The World Championship is scheduled for Aug. 14-22 in Stuttgart, and no final decision is expected on either case by then.

The next council meeting is Aug. 12 in Stuttgart, and IAAF sources said the council was unlikely to consider the doping cases then, but rather to leave them for a later date.

Ngugi, the five-time world cross country champion, had his ban lifted by the Kenyan Federation earlier this month. The 1988 Olympic 5,000-metre champion was suspended when he refused to take a drug test at his farm in Kenya.

The 29-year-old runner is a

soldier and told officials that Kenyan military regulations require that an officer be present during the taking of urine samples.

The IAAF council heard a report from its doping commission, which felt "it was a clear case of refusal," Gyulai said. A refusal to submit to a drug test carries an automatic four-year ban, according to IAAF rules.

Narozhilenko's lawyers threaten IAAF with legal action

The London lawyers of Russian world champion bobsledder Lyudmila Narozhilenko, whose estranged husband says he put steroids in her medication out of spite, threatened legal action against the governing body of track and field unless it discussed her case, an official said Monday.

IAAF general secretary

Gyulai, said the case won't be on the official agenda of the current IAAF council meeting as a separate item as requested by Narozhilenko's lawyers, but that it might be discussed by the doping commission.

Narozhilenko is seeking the lifting of her four-year ban for doping, after her husband and coach said he had put banned steroids into her prescribed medication.

Nikolai Narozhilenko said he put the banned substance into his wife's medication after learning that she planned to leave him for her Swedish manager.

The world 100-metre hurdles champion was banned after testing positive at a meet in France in February, where she matched her World Indoor record over 60 metres. She later broke the record three times at meets in Spain but the records have since been disallowed.

She initially blamed the positive tests on the medication she was given by doctors after feeling sick during her mother's funeral shortly before the competition.

Tests revealed no trace of steroids in the medication and the Russian Federation imposed a four-year ban on Narozhilenko.

After receiving the statement from her husband, however, the federation asked the IAAF to consider her case. Narozhilenko and her Swedish manager have hired the London law firm of Allen and Overy to represent them.

A spokesman for Allen and Overy in London said the IAAF had an obligation to hear the case.

Papin, Gullit unlikely to make AC Milan side

MUNICH (R) — AC Milan plan to select dependable striker Daniele Massaro for Wednesday's European Cup final with Marseille which would leave forward stars Ruud Gullit and Jean-Pierre Papin competing for a place on the bench.

The fact that Gullit and Papin, both former European footballers of the year, are unlikely to make the team is a chilling warning to the French champions of the firepower Milan coach Fabio Capello has at his disposal.

But Capello's choice will be based on pragmatism rather than any attempt to score psychological points.

Massaro, who celebrated his 32nd birthday last Sunday, is in better form and health than his more illustrious team mates.

"The condition of (Marco) Van Basten is improving, so is that of Papin. Gullit still has a few little

problems but Massaro is in great shape," Capello said.

Dutchman Van Basten, current European Footballer of the Year, has started just two matches this year after an ankle operation and is still suffering pain from the old injury.

Papin, a member of the Marseille team which lost to Red Star Belgrade in the 1991 final, has had his plans of a reunion with his former colleagues upset by a calf strain followed by an eye injury suffered when he was hit by a ball during training.

The prolific French marksman returned to action last Friday in the league game at Cagliari but was withdrawn after an hour.

Gullit, part of the three-man Dutch bloc at Milan, has not played for several weeks because of a thigh strain.

The industrious Massaro, who

joined Milan in 1986, is considered the best striking partner for Van Basten. The Italian netted a well-taken goal in the 1-1 draw at Cagliari.

Marseille, who are based at a luxury Bavarian hotel by a lake an hour's drive from Munich, are untroubled by injury problems.

Their sole selection problem concerns whether Jean-Jacques Eydelie or Jean-Christophe Thomas will play in midfield.

Veteran Belgian coach Raymond Goethals is likely to opt for the hard-running Eydelie, who can also slot in at the back.

Marseille may however suffer from the burden of expectation as they seek to become the first French club to lift a European trophy of any description.

"I have tried to calm the players down," millionaire Marseille President Bernard Tapie said. "The Italian champions, due in

Munich Tuesday, are seeking their fifth European Cup in all and their third in the last five competitions after triumphs in 1989 and 1990.

A win would give Italy a clean sweep of this season's European honours after Parma took the Cup Winners' Cup and Juventus lifted the UEFA Cup.

Team (probable):

AC Milan — Sebastiano Roesi, Mauro Tassotti, Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Costacurta, Franco Baresi, Demetrio Albertini, Frank Rijkaard, Gianluigi Lentini, Roberto Donadoni, Daniele Massaro, Marco Van Basten,

Olympique Marseille — Fabien Barthez, Basile Boli, Jocelyn Angloma, Marcel Desailly, Eric Di Meco, Jean-Jacques Eydelie, Didier Deschamps, Franck Sauzeau, Abedi Pele, Alen Bokic, Rudi Voller.

Suns score 105-91 over Supersonics

PHOENIX (AP) — Oliver Miller, hitting his shots and asserting himself underneath in the fourth quarter, led the Phoenix Suns to a 105-91 victory over the Seattle Supersonics Monday night in the opening game of the Western Conference final.

The 6-foot-9 (2.06-metre) rookie centre scored 11 of his 15 points and had seven of his 10 rebounds in the last period, doing most of the damage in the first 3 1/2 minutes while Charles Barkley rested.

It seemed as if the Suns were swatting shots every time Seattle ventured near the basket. Phoenix blocked 16 shots, a team playoff

record. Miller led the way with five.

The Suns sent Seattle to its fourth straight loss on the road in the playoffs. Game 2 of the best-of-7 series is Wednesday night at Phoenix.

Phoenix outrebounded the Sonics 44-40 and applied strong pressure defence. The Sonics did not score a field goal in the fourth quarter until Nate McMillan's 20-footer with 7:45 left. The Suns had extended a 76-65 third-quarter lead to 88-70.

Cedric Ceballos led Phoenix with 21 points despite playing only 23 minutes after suffering a strained left foot midway through the third quarter. Kevin Johnson had 16 points for the Suns. Barkley grabbed 14 rebounds but scored only 12 points and did not go to the foul line all game.

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World Cup qualifying matches

Jordan takes on China today



Members of the Chinese team at practice in Irbid (AFP photo)

equalised from a free kick in the 20th minute, ending the first half 1-1.

Yemen's Ali Abu Ghaleb blocked Pakistan's only real chance in the second half, Al Bared scored his team's goal in the 52nd minute.

Pakistan surrendered to defeat allowing Yemen to score 3 goals within four minutes. Ahmad Al Bred scored the third goal in the 77th minute. Teammate Wijdan Al Shazli netted in the fourth goal in the

80th minute and Mohammad Hassan scored the fifth goal of the match attended by 500 fans only.

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B
Yemen	2	1	1	0	6	2	1
China	1	1	2	1	5	2	1
Jordan	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Iraq	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistan	2	0	0	2	1	10	0

Favourites get easy ride in French Open

PARIS (R) — The favourites enjoyed a surprisingly easy ride on the second day of the French Open Tuesday with seeded players coasting into the second round with straight-set victories.

The clay court player of the year, Sergi Bruguera of Spain, 1989 champion Michael Chang of the United States, big-serving Croat Goran Ivanisevic and German Michael Stich all cruised through their first games unscathed.

Tenth seed Bruguera might have expected a torrid afternoon against French crowd-pleaser Henri Leconte but turned it into a leisurely stroll by 7-6, 6-1, 6-0.

Leconte was a semifinalist last year when he was ranked 200th in the world, keeping the Roland Garros public at fever pitch for the best part of two weeks with a series of swashbuckling displays.

This time, despite his 65th ranking, he was in no mood for an encore.

He stayed the pace well in the opening set when he made an

early break against the Spaniard but Bruguera broke back quickly, wrapped up the tiebreak 7-3 and then took sole charge.

Leconte, whose 27 match wins at Roland Garros has only been dethroned by Ivan Lendl of the

players in this year's draw, can be the world's most exciting player when the mood takes him.

But in the final two sets,

Leconte was at his erratic worst as he fired loser after loser to hand Bruguera the match. After winning the first game of the second set, the Frenchman lost the last 12 games.

"I hoped to play a better match. In the last two sets I had the impression I wasn't on the court," Leconte said. "I made all the mistakes and he played perfectly. I took a hammering and now I must get back to work."

The 21-year-old Ivanisevic, Europe's best hope of ending recent American domination of the event, also had to battle in the first set to overcome Argentine baseliner Franco Davin.

Fifth seed Ivanisevic won 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 in an encounter which had all the overtones of David and Goliath.

Davin, cast in the David role at only 1.73 metres, had no shots to trouble the tall, 1.93-metre croat, and ended up staying three metres off the baseline in a desperate attempt to return serve.

French Open glance

A quick look at Monday's play, the first day of the French Open.

Attendance — 27,549 at Roland Garros Stadium (27,431 in 1992).

Weather — Warm, mostly sunny.

Results — Men: Jim Courier (2) and Boris Becker (4) won in three sets, Stefan Edberg (3) won in four sets.

Quote — "I'm not used to playing players that strong in a stadium that big," Nicolas Escude after winning only three

sets against Boris Becker.

Fashion update: Leave it to French. Security guards post in behind players on centre court.

The French Open are sporting crew cuts and chic, navy blue blazers. Linewomen look business-like in long-sleeved, blue Oxford shirts, matched with stripped ties and charcoal gray mini-skirts.

As for crowd elegance, this may be the only event in the world where spectators don't look as if they're ready to step on court. Even in the bleachers, linen suits, dustiers and straw hats have replaced the familiar designer tennis attire worn by most fans worldwide.

Ashe benefit: More than 20,000 spectators jammed into the Roland Garros Stadium for the annual pre-tournament benefit. This year half the proceeds will be donated to the Arthur Ashe Foundation set up to fight AIDS.

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Japan remains world's largest creditor

TOKYO (R) — Japan retained its status as the world's largest creditor nation at the end of calendar 1992, thanks to its rapidly growing current account surplus, a ministry of finance (MOF) official said Tuesday.

Japan's net overseas holdings — the balance between assets and debts it holds abroad — hit a record of \$513.6 billion in 1992, up \$130.5 billion from the previous year's record \$383.1 billion, the MOF said in a report.

Comparable 1992 figures for

other major nations are not available yet, but the MOF official said Japan's net external assets should remain top for the second consecutive year.

Germany had net foreign assets of \$333.9 billion at the end of June 1992. Its net external assets fell to second place in 1991 with \$345.4 billion, after being number one in the world in 1990.

The United States had net external debts of \$361.5 billion at the end of 1991, while Britain had net foreign assets of \$30.1 billion.

Japan's net external assets posted the eleventh consecutive year-on-year increase in 1992, largely due to the rise in its current account surplus, the MOF official told a briefing.

The nation's politically-sensitive current account surplus jumped by 61 per cent to a record \$117.6 billion in 1992 from \$72.9 billion in the previous year, according to MOF statistics.

The rapid growth in Japan's current account surplus remains a

concern for the ministry from the viewpoint of (possible worsening of) overseas protectionism and trade friction," the ministry official told reporters.

However, the official added:

"You must be aware that Japan's surplus is not exerting any adverse effect, such as reducing employment in other nations. Such a risk is slim."

The ministry said Japan's gross foreign assets totalled a record \$2.04 trillion at the end of 1992 from \$43.8 billion a year earlier.

Japan's net external assets to \$655.5 billion at the end of 1992 from \$632.1 billion, while direct investment overseas increased to \$248.1 billion from \$231.8 billion, the ministry said.

The ministry also said Japan's gross foreign debt fell to \$1.52 trillion at the end of 1992 from a record of \$1.62 trillion a year earlier.

Of foreign debts, foreigners' net purchases of bonds and stocks fell to \$431.4 billion in 1992 from \$443.8 billion a year earlier.

Company failures in Britain decline

LEEDS (R) — British company insolvencies fell for a second consecutive quarter early this year. A clear sign the country's longest recession for more than half a century is finally over, according to statistics.

British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) figures showed company insolvencies fell a seasonally-adjusted five per cent to 5,705 in the first quarter of 1993 from 6,029 in the previous quarter.

The news will provide some relief to the ruling Conservative Party, trying to restore its political authority after a recession which has battered the corporate sector and sent unemployment soaring to 10 per cent of the workforce.

The government was given a dose of bad news recently when shipyard Swan Hunter, in the depressed north-east region of England, called in the receivers after failing to win a vital order to build a royal navy helicopter carrier.

Around 2,200 jobs at the historic shipyard are directly under threat, with a shadow cast over 4,000 related jobs in a region which was once the world's biggest shipbuilding centre.

But the conservatives will take comfort from the fact that insolvencies, traditionally a lagging economic indicator, were also two per cent down in the first quarter of 1993 compared with the comparable year-ago quarter.

"This is very good news. At the beginning of the year we said it was premature to announce the end of the recession. Today's figures provide evidence that the economic tide is turning, perhaps even quicker than many have expected," said Richard Brown, director of policy for the BCC.

"Falling levels of insolvencies will be good for business and employee-consumer confidence, will stanch the decline of capacity, and will ease the burden of bad debt on business," he added.

For British business, the last year has been dreadful.

In the year to the end of March the total number of insolvencies in England and Wales was 24,34, representing 2.2 per cent of all registered companies.

U.S. women said to pay more than men for many of the same goods

WASHINGTON (AP) — Women in America pay more than men for the same goods and services, from cars to health care to dry cleaning, according to a new book aimed at helping women get more for their money.

For example, women buy about half the new cars sold each year, but a white woman would pay about \$150 more for the same car as a white man and an African-American woman would pay about \$800 more, according to "Why Women Pay More," published by consumer advocate Ralph Nader's Centre for Responsive Law.

"There is an element of suckerism," said book's author Frances Cerra Whittlesey, a former reporter for Newsday and the New York Times. She said culturally women have not educated themselves to money matters so well as they should.

Women still earn an average of 74 cents for every dollar earned by a man, according to the book.

prescribed more tests and drugs and told to come back more times than men, her book says.

At dry cleaning establishments, a woman's white cotton shirt traditionally costs about 27 per cent more to launder than the same style man's shirt, the book reports.

Ms. Whittlesey found similar inconsistencies in other areas.

In auto insurance, women over age 25 pay the same as men although women have fewer accidents.

In clothing, a man's knit shirt is almost always less expensive than the same style in the women's department.

"I have overheard women in beauty shops admit that they would lose their husbands if they didn't have them," she said.

The same goes for high-heeled shoes.

"Stiletto heels, which make their wearer appear long-legged, force women to take small steps

instead of on-the-ground strides," Ms. Whittlesey writes.

They also cause corns, calcaneous, inflammation of the Achilles tendon, hammertoe, general pain in the ball of the foot, an enlargement at the back of the heel bone and more visits to podiatrists than men make, she quotes a podiatrist as saying.

The 193-page book has spending tips, reading lists and the names of government and private organisations that can help with general marketplace perils, health, finance, legal needs, advertising and fashion.

In general, women are advised to:

- Be assertive.
- Learn basic information about home and car repairs.
- Negotiate and be prepared to walk away if the price is not right.
- Complain to proper authorities in cases of incompetence and fraud.

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Russian exports key to '93 platinum prices

LONDON (R) — Uncertainty over Russia's ability to make regular shipments to the West is expected to underpin platinum prices in 1993 but is unlikely to spark a major rally, the world's leading refiner, Johnson Matthey PLC, has said.

Analysts cite political unrest in Russia and the country's administrative problems as the reasons that its ability to maintain supplies is in doubt.

World demand is expected to increase by at least 200,000 ounces after Russian sales fell by 350,000 from 1991 to 750,000 ounces. Total newly mined supply was 3,820 million ounces.

Russia is expected to maintain around the same level of sales in 1993, and although prospects for South African output — which fell by 20,000 ounces last year — are better, continuing low prices and political instability could arrest plans to expand production.

South Africa continued to be the world's largest producer in 1992, providing 2.75 million ounces, 72 per cent of world supply.

Norilsk (the leading Russian producer) lost 30 per cent, according to the Nickel Producers Association and the impact on

the platinum group metal output was affected proportionally," Johnson Matthey's operations director, Keith Greco, told Reuters in an interview. "They don't seem to have problems meeting their market requirements. They must be selling from reserves."

"Demand is going to increase for both platinum and rhodium. It is legislation-driven. Even though car sales are so bad worldwide, usage of platinum and rhodium is going up," he said.

But Mr. Green added: "We're practical and we don't see a sustained price recovery."

The main uses of the metal by sector in 1992 were in autocatalysts to reduce toxic emissions with 1.55 million ounces, up from 1.57 million in 1991, and jewellery with 1.51 million ounces, from 1.47 million previously.

Demand was greatest in Japan, at 1.86 million ounces or 49 per cent of Western world buying, followed by western Europe with 840,000 ounces and North America with 715,000.

S. Korean economy brightens up

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's business prospects are looking up, thanks to a government stimulus package and increased exports partly fuelled by the stronger yen, business leaders and officials say.

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), which groups the country's major conglomerates, has reported that the business survey index, which measures business confidence, hit 119 in May from a record low of 89 in January.

Deputy Premier and Economic Planning Minister Lee Kyung-Shik said recently that the economy had shown a mild recover in the first quarter and that indicators pointed to further improvements to cut government-regulated interest rates and ease monetary controls.

Partly due to eased access to funds, corporate bankruptcies numbered around only 1,500 in the first two months of the year, down from the 2,000 posted in the last two months of 1992. Mr. Lee was quoted as saying.

French bond plans draw bourse applause, jibes

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's decision to launch a jumbo bond issue brought applause from investors Tuesday but critics accused the new French conservative premier of shifting economic gears in a

austerity plan, outlined only two weeks ago, in order to add to state.

The bond was tacked on to the previous economic package, which Mr. Balladur unveiled on May 10 and was to be presented officially to parliament later Tuesday.

French stocks gained ground as investors welcomed Mr. Balladur's plans, announced Monday, to beef up his economic recovery plan by launching a 40 billion franc (\$7.2 billion) bond.

The bond issue will finance new public spending on infrastructure and government work schemes before proceeds from a privatisation programme begin flowing later in the year.

The Paris Bourse's blue chip CAC-40 share index had risen 1.25 per cent by mid-session. Investors were heartened by Mr. Balladur's will to tackle the recession and mounting job losses.

But some economists said the stepped-up programme would do little to pull France out of the economic doldrums.

Opposition politicians accused him of hastily abandoning campaign promises and an earlier

ending the two-week-old policy of belt-tightening.

The left-wing daily liberation called Mr. Balladur's move "a curious change in speed, which looks a bit disorderly."

Charles Milon, parliamentary leader of the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF), the partner in the ruling coalition, said Mr. Balladur, who took power in late March, had been surprised by the magnitude of France's economic problems.

The Socialists, reduced to a slim parliamentary minority following their electoral rout, accused Mr. Balladur of pursuing contradictory policies and renegotiating on campaign promises.

"When someone says the budget deficit has to be cut and then takes out a loan, I say he is pursuing the policies of a shortsighted idiot," said Francois Hollande, one of the Socialist party's young leaders.

The independent economic think-tank OFCE said the pack-

age would fail to pull the French economy, forecast to shrink by 0.75 per cent in the first half of 1993, out of recession.

Romanian president urges crackdown on corruption

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian President Ion Iliescu called Monday for a crackdown on corruption at all levels and warned that lack of action could threaten Romania's fledgling democracy and market economy reforms.

"I appeal to all institutions in charge of public order and observance of law... to investigate and make public all cases of corruption," Mr. Iliescu told a news conference in response to news media allegations that corruption has become rampant since Romania became a market economy three years ago.

He urged parliament to draw up immediately anti-corruption laws and severe penalties against offenders.

"Authorities must take a clear stand against those involved in cases of corruption or breach of law, irrespective of their position in any hierarchy," Mr. Iliescu said.

He said state-owned companies presented the worst records of fraud and declared: "The phenomenon of corruption can compromise our democracy and the course of economic reforms."

Mr. Iliescu said many managers of state-owned companies had almost ruined their companies after concluding profitable businesses with private firms secretly owned by those managers.

News reports say scores of government officials have been involved in illegal deals and some senior government members and presidential staff had tried to stop investigation of cases of corruption.

Mr. Iliescu said he would go to the United States to meet with President George Bush to discuss the issue of corruption.

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ter Nicolae Vacariu decided to submit the accounts of state-owned companies to thorough checks by government experts.

Mr. Vacariu urged government officials to take "drastic steps to to destroy corruption rings and big smuggler's networks."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MAY 26, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Hold your present position intact and Satisfy some pretty rough going, who will gladly cooperate with you in whatever your planning if you are up front with the details.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

Seek out those friends and acquaintances who are experienced in the new type of interests that motivate and steer clear of older persons who delay you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

It is advisable you listen to one in a position of influence who is current in activity to uncover the best way to put in motion worldly abilities.